

Application No. 10/735,343
Amendment dated July 27, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

--To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, the shoe in one embodiment includes an upper having a heel region and rear sole support attached to the heel region of the upper. The rear sole support includes a base, a first wall extending downwardly from the base and having a first groove, and a second downwardly extending wall opposite the first wall and having a second groove facing the first groove. A rear sole is detachably secured to the rear sole support with a mounting member attached to the rear sole and including at least one rim for engaging the first and second grooves. A locking member engages the rear sole support and one of the rear sole and mounting member to prevent rotation of the rear sole relative to the rear sole support during use.--

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

--In some conventional shoes, the forward sole (simply referred to in the industry as a "sole") would extend from the forefoot region to the rear edge of the heel. In other conventional models, portions of the outsole and/or midsole are reduced or eliminated in certain non-stress areas, such as the arch area, to reduce weight. However, in a radical departure from conventional shoes, the shoe in an embodiment of the present invention incorporates a heel structure, including a detachable rear sole, that significantly alleviates heel wear problems associated with conventional soles and provides enhanced cushioning and/or spring. --

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Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 with the following amended paragraph:

-- For the embodiments of the present invention relating to detachable rear soles, ~~to~~ attach the rear sole to the rear sole support, the rear sole, with the mounting member 60 attached (and, optionally, with a flexible plate 80, discussed later, supported on the mounting member 60), is positioned relative to the rear sole support so that the front and rear rims of the mounting member are rotated in a circular manner no more than about 90 degrees, about axis Y from their positions shown in FIG. 2. The mounting member is centered between the front and rear grooves, then pressed against the bottom of the base 30 and rotated less than 180 degrees, and generally no more than about 90 degree. (clockwise or counterclockwise), so that rims 72 fully engage the front and rear grooves of the rear sole support defined by lips 34 and 40 seen in FIG. 4. When the rear portion of the rear sole becomes worn, the rear sole can be rotated in a circular manner 180 degrees so that the worn rear portion now faces toward the front of the shoe and occupies an area somewhat forward of the calcaneus where little or no weight of the user is applied. When the rotated rear portion of the rear sole also becomes worn, the rear sole may be detached and exchanged with the rear sole of the other shoe, since wear patterns of left and right heels are typically opposite. The rear sole may also be discarded and replaced with a new one with or without any rotation or exchange between left and right shoe.--

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 18 with the following amended paragraph:

-- For the embodiment of the present invention relating to flexible plates, ~~and as~~ shown in FIG. 2, mounting member 60 includes slots 76 for supporting a flexible plate 80 between the rear sole and the heel portion of the upper so that a portion of plate 80 is exposed through central opening 36. The flexible plate, which may be made of a graphite composite or other stiff, but flexible, material,

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reduces heel-center midsole compression and provides spring to the user. The flexible plate is, of course, stiffer than the materials used for the outsole or midsole, but must be sufficiently flexible so as to not detrimentally affect cushioning of the user's heel. A graphite or graphite/fiberglass composite, including carbon or carbon and graphite fibers woven in an acrylic or resin base, such as those manufactured by Biomechanical Composites Co. of Camarillo, Calif., may be used.—